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Carnahan Opposes Jeopardizing Projects That Employ Thousands of Americans, Calls for Long-Term Transportation Solutions

(WASHINGTON) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted today to extend existing highway and transit funding by three months and called on his colleagues in Congress to renew efforts to develop long-term solutions to the nation's transportation policy. Without action current law expires at the end of this month, September 30th. The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2009 (H.R. 3617) passed today 335-95.

Carnahan, who serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said that he was troubled that some Republican Members of Congress would try to block the passage of the funding extension, a move that could have halted hundreds of transportation projects and put additional Americans out of work.

"I would rather we were voting on a long-term bill, but it makes no sense to jeopardize jobs when so many Americans are already out of work," said Congressman Carnahan.

Today's three-month extension gives House and Senate leaders time to work toward a long-term Surface Transportation bill. Carnahan who serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, favors a long-term blueprint investment for America's future transportation needs.

"We need a long-term strategy that will move our nation's transportation system into the 21st century," Carnahan said. **"We must rebuild our aging infrastructure in a smart way that addresses our economic challenges."**

Earlier this year, Carnahan joined colleagues Congressmen Jay Inslee (WA-1) and Rush Holt (NJ-12) in introducing the National Transportation Objectives Act of 2009. The legislation defines a set of objectives and performance targets that will move national surface transportation system forward in a way that addresses the U.S.'s economic, energy, and environmental challenges.

"I hope leaders from both houses of Congress can come together this year and agree upon a framework to improve our current transportation systems and enact new strategies that improve safety and efficiency," said Carnahan. "Investing in our nation's roads, bridges, rail and mass transit systems will stimulate our struggling economy in addition to Recovery projects already being implemented today."

Congressman Carnahan joined colleagues calling on President Barack Obama to support a five-year blueprint for the 21st Century in June. The letter can be found [here](#).

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